

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

President
Amor "Skip" Portale
Vice President
Ellsworth Ott
2nd Vice President
Charles "Chick" Kisby



Secretary
Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer
Stacey Wellington
Asst. Sect./Treasurer
Jaime C. Mellon

December 17, 2008

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Dec. 17, 2008 at the West Atlantic City Volunteer Fire Company No. 5 by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny. Reverend Sweeny then asked for a moment of silence to remember Jim Dierwechter, husband of former 2nd Vice President Kathleen Dierwechter. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

Chief Wallace Bakely Jr. of the West Atlantic City Volunteer Fire Company No. 5 was introduced. Chief Bakely welcomed all to West Atlantic City and Egg Harbor Township.

In Attendance

Roll call was taken by Secretary Robert A. Mellon who reported a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the Nov. 19, 2008 meeting, as sent to the member companies after correction to the Executive Committee nomination.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer as read by Treasurer Stacey Wellington.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Jan. 2, 2009 in Pomona. This will be the Executive Committee's annual reorganizational meeting. Howard thanked all of the delegates that have been attending the monthly meetings and the fine job that is being done by the association officers.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the next meeting of the board will be on Jan.12, 2009 at the training center. President Portale introduce Freeholder Frank Sutton who serves on the board as a freeholder representative. Mr. Sutton thanked all that have supported him for reelection and stated that he looks forward to continuing to work with the county fire departments and the association.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent reported on the submitted requests for the homeland security grant program. Ed explained the parameters and requirements of the grant program. Ed reported on the shore regional meeting of the state county fire

coordinators. Ed reported on the inner workings of the NJ Division of Fire Safety. Ed requested that all county task forces schedule meetings and drills in order to keep the task forces operating. Ed reported that the mutual aid website for fire chiefs is still in the developmental stage. A training meeting for the website will be scheduled for a future Atl. Co. Fire Chiefs meeting. Ed reported on the status of the county 800mhz. system and the portables that will be distributed, in the near future, to the task force leaders and departments still on VHF.

Training – Gill Zonge reported in the absence of the Director of Training, Mike Corbo. The 2009 spring semester book will be distributed after the start of the new year. Firefighter I will start on Thurs. Feb. 5, 2009 and Firefighter II will start on Mon. Mar. 9, 2009. A defensive driving course for fire departments will be available. This will be a two day class utilizing hands on training with the departments own apparatus. Fire Officer I may be offered in the spring schedule.

Library – Ron Bird reported that the library is open and if anything is needed, please contact him. Ron is still working on the inventory of the library.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief’s Association – Jim Garth reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief’s Association will be on Jan. 29, 2008 in Absecon. The Nov. 25, 2008 meeting was canceled after a quorum failed to meet. Many thanks to Linwood Fire Dept. for providing food to few representatives that attempted to meet.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the home now has two inspections per year. Both inspections have reported zero deficiencies. Oscar reported on the new Sirius satellite radio system that is now supplying music to the entire home. Oscar reported that there is now seventy-four guests in the home. Oscar presented the check for \$200.00 from the ACFFA during a recent visit to the home and it was greatly appreciated.

NJ Firemen’s Assn. –Henry Schoenstein reported, after an update survey was completed, the association computer system is reporting 72,546 as total membership. Henry reported on the discussion held about attempting to obtain better behavior at the annual convention. Henry reported on the committee meetings held. Henry reported that all forms have been sent to the secretaries. Henry noted that the green sheets have some errors in the phone number fields.

ACFFA Dinner (Ladies’ Night) – Wayne Dilks reported that the dinner is scheduled for 18:30 Friday April 17, 2009 at Careme’s, Atl. Cape Comm. College.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

Pursuant to Article IX of the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association Constitution, a vote was held for the revision of Article II and the addition of Article X to the Constitution. The vote passed unanimously with no dissenting votes. The addition will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2009.

Proposal for Revision

“Constitution, Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association of the State of New Jersey”.

CHANGES

Article II (OBJECTIVES)

Section 1

Current: OBJECTS The objects of this Association shall be to promote the welfare of the several member fire companies; to arouse interest, through discussions, toward improving our services as firefighters; to create a feeling of good will and good fellowship among the members; and, by means of our unity, to promote legislation beneficial to this Association and its members.

Proposed: OBJECTS The objects of this Association shall be to promote the welfare of the several member fire companies; to arouse interest, through discussions, toward improving our services as firefighters; and to create a feeling of good will and good fellowship among the members.

Section 3

Current: COMMUNICATIONS To operate and maintain the Atlantic County Station of the Seven (7) County South Jersey Radio Network for intra-county emergency communications. To operate and maintain the Atlantic County Emergency Communications Control Center and the Mobile Communications Unit of Atlantic County. To provide emergency fire and disaster communications for the Fire Departments of Atlantic County during any fire or disaster.

Proposed: COMMUNICATIONS To work with and assist the Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management with the operation of the emergency communications system as it pertains to the fire service within Atlantic County.

NEW

Proposed:

ARTICLE X

SECTION 1: SEVERABILITY If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of the Constitution shall be held to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Constitution.

SECTION 2: CONFLICTS This Constitution is subordinate to all provisions of the Declaration, and to any applicable provisions of the Annotated Code of New Jersey. All of the terms hereof, except where clearly repugnant to the context, shall have the same meaning as in the Declaration or the aforesaid statutes. In the event of any conflict between the aforesaid Declaration and any applicable provisions of the Annotated Code of New Jersey, the provisions of the statute shall control.

Pursuant to Article X of the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association Bylaws, a vote was held for the addition of Article XII to the Bylaws. The vote passed unanimously with no dissenting votes. The addition will go into effect immediately.

Proposal for Addition

“By-Laws, Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association of the State of New Jersey”.

NEW

Proposed:

ARTICLE XII

SECTION 1: SEVERABILITY If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of these By-Laws shall be held to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of these By-Laws.

SECTION 2: CONFLICTS These By-Laws are subordinate to all provisions of the Declaration, and to any applicable provisions of the Annotated Code of New Jersey. All of the terms hereof, except where clearly repugnant to the context, shall have the same meaning as in the Declaration or the aforesaid statutes. In the event of any conflict between the aforesaid Declaration and any applicable provisions of the Annotated Code of New Jersey, the provisions of the statute shall control.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

Election of Officers

The election of officers was held. The positions for the Executive Committee was voted on by ballot. The remaining positions were unopposed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the secretary cast the ballot for all unopposed positions. Those elected to office for the year 2009 are as follows.

- President (1) Amor “Skip” Portale
- 1st Vice President (1) Ellsworth Ott
- 2nd Vice President (1) Charles “Chick” Kisby
- Secretary (1) Robert A. Mellon
- Treasurer (1) Stacey Wellington

Asst. Sec./Trea. (1) Jaime C. Mellon
 Chaplain (1) Rev. Thomas Sweeny
 Sgt.-at-Arms (3) Jeffrey A. Rascone, Charles Harlan, William Thomas Hand
 Executive Comm. (9) Howard Berchtold Jr., Oscar Dutch Jr., Ronald Bird Jr.,
 James Garth Sr., Ted Reinhard, R. Thomas Hunter Jr.
 Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Charles J. Guenther, C. Robert Winkler III

Bills

The bills were read by Treasurer Stacey Wellington. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

Good of the Order

Joe Ward reported that anything sent the NJ Attorney General’s office for review is going into a black hole. Joe thank and applauded Ed Vincent for serving as the Atlantic County Fire Coordinator and being able to deal with the State of New Jersey.

Thank you to the West Atlantic City Fire Company No. 5 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:25. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Jan. 21, 2009 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2008 to Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz before Jan. 10, 2009 so that they may be included in the memorial service program. Please plan on attending the meeting and service in full class A dress uniform.

Attested:
 Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

Sun. Dec. 21	13:00 Prudential Center – Newark, NJ	NJ Devils vs. Philadelphia Flyers – Firefighter/EMS Discount
Sun. Jan. 11, 2009	08:00 Somers Point VFC #2	Community Breakfast
Thurs. Jan. 22, 2009	20:00 Absecon FD	Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen’s Death Benefit Fund
Sat. Apr. 4, 2009	16:00 Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Fri. Apr. 17, 2009	18:30 Careme’s @ Atl. Cape Comm. College	Annual ACFFA Dinner
Sat. May 2, 2009	16:00 Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner

(Please email your event info to robert.mellon@atlanticcountvfireassoc.org)